

EDITORIAL

The Wilson Club's Illustrations Committee is interested in bettering the illustrations of the *Bulletin* and in finding funds for reproducing there more pictures. The Committee has in mind amassing a sizeable sum of money which will pay for more half-tones and, eventually, one or more color plates in each volume. Donations will be gratefully received, of course, but the Committee's present plan for increasing the size of this fund is to sell, at the coming meeting, certain originals that have already been reproduced. We hope that other artists will eventually contribute paintings or drawings for this purpose, but at the next meeting at least ten small-sized Sutton originals will be placed on display to be sold at a moderate figure for the benefit of the fund. Pictures to be placed on sale include small sized water-colors of the following species: Ruffed Grouse, Red-wing, Great Horned Owl, Crested Flycatcher, Bluebird, Bald Eagle, and Prairie Chicken.

Members are reminded that two important proposals (see page 59 of the March *Bulletin*) for increasing the Club's income from dues were placed on the table last year for final decision at the 1941 Annual Meeting. Economic changes since last November make it even more imperative that some action be taken. No other comparable bird journal is maintained on such low minimum dues. We have managed to balance the books for the last year or two only by virtue of the generous donations of a few individuals. Obviously we cannot expect them to carry permanently the burden which should be shared by all the members.

We had a number of requests in response to the offer we made last year to supply reprints of our lists of current bird papers for cutting and pasting on bibliography cards and this has now become a regular *Wilson Bulletin* service. Since the annual sets cost only a few cents, some members get two sets and maintain one set of author cards in addition to the set filed by subjects. Experience has shown that, while subject entries must for flexibility be posted on separate cards, as many as eight or ten titles by one author can be posted on one library card, thus saving much space in the author files.

Others interested in obtaining these reprints should apply to the Editor.

The Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club for 1941 will be held on the University of Illinois campus, November 21 to 23. Dr. Kendeigh, chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements, reports that headquarters will be in the attractive new Illini Union Building. Members and guests will find comfortable lounging rooms there for conversations and for conferences. Luncheons and the annual banquet will be in this building, which is centrally located in respect to the meeting place and the hotels. Living quarters should be arranged for in advance at any of the main hotels: Tilden-Hall or Inman in Champaign and Urbana-Lincoln in Urbana. Rates are reasonable and, in addition, tourist rooms on the main highways are available. City busses provide quick and inexpensive transportation from any part of the twin cities to the Headquarters and to the place of meeting. Most of the sessions will be held in Gregory Hall.

Members should be considering what papers they will present, for the titles will be requested in the Secretary's letter that all members will soon receive. As a special feature of the program plans are being made to portray ecological and experimental aspects of bird study. Dr. V. E. Shelford has consented to serve as chairman of a symposium dealing with some phase of ecology in relation to bird studies. Dr. Shelford has long been a leader in this country in animal ecology and his discussion will be of special value to bird students who wish to know more

about how to use ecological principles in their own field work with birds. Members will be given an opportunity to inspect the facilities and equipment for this kind of work at the Vivarium Building and to observe researches under way. The new Natural Resources building, where the Illinois State Natural History Survey is conducting many studies dealing with conservation and wildlife management, will also be open for inspection.

For Sunday there is planned a trip to the Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge near Havana, where a large number of waterfowl may be expected at that season of the year. The trip will include a stop at the new Natural History Survey Laboratory located on the Refuge, with an inspection of the work with water birds and other animals that is being conducted there.

We expect a large attendance for our Annual Meeting at this important and conveniently-located ornithological center which the Club has never before visited.

June 3, 1941.

To the Editor of the Wilson Bulletin:

For the benefit of your readers, I am submitting this report of progress on my series of Bulletins on the life histories of North American birds.

The fourteenth volume, on flycatchers, larks and swallows, will go to the printer very soon, though it will not be published before some time next spring, as the Government Printing Office is congested.

My work on the fifteenth volume, containing the Corvidae and the Paridae, is now all written and will go to the publishers this fall.

I am now starting work on the sixteenth volume, to contain all the birds on the 1931 Check-List from the Sittidae to the Mimidae inclusive. I should be glad to receive, as soon as possible, any notes, data or photographs relating to any of the birds in these six families.

The sooner these are sent to me, the more likely they are to be included in the work, and the more conveniently I can handle them.

I wish to thank all former contributors to this co-operative work for the valuable material sent to me in the past, and to solicit their help in the future. All material is welcome, though I can use only the most important part of it.

Sincerely yours,

A. C. Bent

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Taunton, Mass.

OBITUARY

MYRON H. SWENK, formerly president of the Wilson Club and associate editor of the *Bulletin*, died at his home in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 17 at the age of fifty-seven. Professor Swenk, long chairman of the entomology department of the University of Nebraska, was also the recognized leader in ornithology in his state. He was the founder and editor of the *Nebraska Bird Review* and in addition published there and elsewhere a series of scholarly contributions of his own to the ornithology of the West.